# BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation	)	
Against:	)	
	)	
	)	
Edward Robert Alexson, M.D.	)	File No. 18-2013-231052
	)	
Physician's and Surgeon's	)	
Certificate No. G 27314	)	
	)	
Respondent	)	
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### **DECISION**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on November 4, 2016.

IT IS SO ORDERED October 6, 2016.

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

By: \_

Jamie Wright, J.D., Chair

Panel A

1	KAMALA D. HARRIS Attorney General of California ROBERT MCKIM BELL Supervising Deputy Attorney General CHRISTINE R. FRIAR		
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4	Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 228421		
5	California Department of Justice 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702		
6	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-6404		
7	Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 Attorneys for Complainant		
8	BEFORE THE		
9	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10	STATE OF C		
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 18-2013-231052	
12	EDWARD ROBERT ALEXSON, M.D.	OAH No. 2016040932	
13	1401 North Tustin Ave., #220 Santa Ana, CA 92705	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND	
14	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G27314	DISCIPLINARY ORDER	
15	Respondent.		
16	TO IC HEDEDY COIDIL ATED AND A	CDEED by and between the parties to the above	
17	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED by and between the parties to the above-		
18	entitled proceedings that the following matters a		
19	PARTIES  (**C) 1 in (**) in the Ferencian Director of the Medical		
20	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer ("Complainant") is the Executive Director of the Medical		
21	Board of California ("Board"). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is		
22	represented in this matter by Kamala D. Harris, Attorney General of the State of California, by		
23	Christine R. Friar, Deputy Attorney General.		
24	2. Respondent Edward Robert Alexson, M.D. ("Respondent") is represented in this		
25	proceeding by attorney Raymond J. McMahon of Doyle Schafer McMahon, located at 100		
26	Spectrum Center Drive, Suite 520, Irvine, California 92618.		
27	3. On July 23, 1974, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G27314		
28	to Edward Robert Alexson, M.D. That Certifica	te was in full force and effect at all times relevant	
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to the charges brought in Accusation No. 18-2013-231052, and will expire on July 31, 2017, unless renewed.

### **JURISDICTION**

- 4. Accusation No. 18-2013-231052 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on March 15, 2016. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation.
- 5. A copy of Accusation No. 18-2013-231052 is attached as Exhibit A is and incorporated herein by reference.

### **ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS**

- 6. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 18-2013-231052. Respondent has also carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 7. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 8. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

### **CULPABILITY**

- 9. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in the Second Cause for Discipline (aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine) as set forth in Accusation No. 18-2013-231052.
- 10. Respondent agrees that his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board's imposition of discipline as set forth in the

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### **CONTINGENCY**

- 11. This stipulation shall be subject to approval by the Medical Board of California. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Medical Board of California may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 12. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 13. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

### A. PUBLIC REPRIMAND

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G27314 issued to Edward Robert Alexson, M.D., shall be and is hereby publicly reprimanded pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 2227, subdivision (a)(4). This public reprimand, which is issued in connection with Respondent's failure to adequately supervise his chemotherapy infusion center, such that an unlicensed staff member was allowed to, and did, mix and administer chemotherapy drugs to his patients, as set forth in Accusation No. 18-2013-231052, is as follows:

"You failed to adequately supervise your chemotherapy infusion center, such that an

unlicensed staff member was allowed to, and did, mix and administer chemotherapy drugs to your patients, as more fully described in Accusation No. 18-2013-231052."

#### PROFESSIONALISM PROGRAM (ETHICS COURSE). В.

Within 60 calendar days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent shall enroll in a professionalism program, that meets the requirements of Title 16, California Code of Regulations section 1358. Respondent shall participate in and successfully complete that program. Respondent shall provide any information and documents that the program may deem pertinent. Respondent shall successfully complete the classroom component of the program not later than six (6) months after Respondent's initial enrollment, and the longitudinal component of the program not later than the time specified by the program, but no later than one (1) year after attending the classroom component. The professionalism program shall be at Respondent's expense and shall be in addition to the Continuing Medical Education ("CME") requirements for renewal of licensure.

A professionalism program taken after the acts that gave rise to the charges in the Accusation, but prior to the effective date of the Decision may, in the sole discretion of the Board or its designee, be accepted towards the fulfillment of this condition if the program would have been approved by the Board or its designee had the program been taken after the effective date of this Decision.

Respondent shall submit a certification of successful completion to the Board or its designee not later than 15 calendar days after successfully completing the program or not later than 15 calendar days after the effective date of the Decision, whichever is later.

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### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Raymond J. McMahon. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 9/7/2016 EDWARD ROBERT ALEXSON, M.D.

Respondent

I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Edward Robert Alexson, M.D. the terms and conditions and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve its form and content.

DATED: September 8,206

RAYMOND J. MCMAHON
Attorney for Respondent

### **ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Medical Board of California.

Dated: 9 8 2016

Respectfully submitted,

KAMALA D. HARRIS
Attorney General of California
ROBERT MCKIM BELL
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

CHRISTINE R. FRIAR
Deputy Attorney General
Attorneys for Complainant

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### Exhibit A

Accusation No. 18-2013-231052

STATE OF CALIFORNIA MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO Mar 15 20 16 1 KAMALA D. HARRIS **ANALYST** Attorney General of California BY D Richards 2 JUDITH T. ALVARADO Supervising Deputy Attorney General 3 CHRISTINE R. FRIAR Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 228421 4 California Department of Justice 5 300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-6404 6 Facsimile: (213) 897-9395 7 Attorneys for Complainant **BEFORE THE** 8 MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS 9 STATE OF CALIFORNIA 10 Case No. 18-2013-231052 In the Matter of the Accusation Against: 11 12 ACCUSATION EDWARD ROBERT ALEXSON, M.D. 1401 North Tustin Ave., #220 13 Santa Ana, CA 92705 14 Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. G 27314, 15 Respondent. 16 17 Complainant alleges: 18 **PARTIES** 19 Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official 20 1. capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer 21 Affairs (Board). 22 On or about July 23, 1974, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate 2. 23 Number G 27314 to Edward Robert Alexson, M.D. (Respondent). That certificate was in full 24 force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought herein and will expire on July 31, 25 26 2017, unless renewed. 27 /// 28 ///

(EDWARD ROBERT ALEXSON, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 18-2013-231052

### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
  - 4. Section 2234 of the Code, states:

"The board shall take action against any licensee who is charged with unprofessional conduct. In addition to other provisions of this article, unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- "(a) Violating or attempting to violate, directly or indirectly, assisting in or abetting the violation of, or conspiring to violate any provision of this chapter.
  - "(b) Gross negligence.
  - 66 75
  - 5. Section 2264 of the Code states:

"The employing, directly or indirectly, the aiding, or the abetting of any unlicensed person or any suspended, revoked, or unlicensed practitioner to engage in the practice of medicine or any other mode of treating the sick or afflicted which requires a license to practice constitutes unprofessional conduct."

### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Gross Negligence)

- 6. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code section 2234, subdivision (b), in that Respondent committed gross negligence when he failed to adequately supervise his chemotherapy infusion center, such that an unlicensed staff member was allowed to, and did, mix and administer chemotherapy drugs to his patients. The circumstances are as follows:
- 7. In 2012 and 2013, Respondent owned and operated an outpatient hematology and oncology medical practice located at 1100 North Tustin Avenue in Tustin, California.
  - 8. According to Respondent, "99%" of his patients have blood disorders or cancer.
- 9. One of the services Respondent's practice provided to his patients in 2012 and 2013 was chemotherapy for the treatment of blood disorders and cancer. Respondent treated multiple chemotherapy patients each day.

- 10. Respondent's office space in 2012 and 2013 was comprised of a front waiting area, examination rooms, physician and staff offices and a chemotherapy treatment area. In the chemotherapy treatment area, there were several patient "infusion chairs," a drug mixing area and a small laboratory.
- 11. Though Respondent shared this office space with another physician, there was no overlap in their practices, patients or employees.
- 12. Pursuant to the standard of care, chemotherapy drugs can only be mixed by a licensed pharmacy technician, registered nurse or physician.
- 13. Pursuant to the standard of care, only a licensed registered nurse or physician can administer and supervise the administration of chemotherapy drugs.
- 14. All of Respondent's employees at his practice functioned under the supervision of and the medical license of Respondent.
- 15. During the relevant time period, 2012 and 2013, an unlicensed staff member was allowed to, and did, mix and administer chemotherapy drugs to Respondent's patients.
- 16. The standard of care for a medical oncologist in the State of California is to supervise the diagnosis, treatment planning and actual treatment of patients with cancer. This supervision includes ensuring that the correct chemotherapy drugs are mixed and administered to patients in a safe and secure environment.
- 17. Respondent admits that during the relevant time period, he spent little time in the mixing and chemotherapy portion of his office. Instead, he had his head nurse running this area of his office.
- 18. Respondent failed to adequately supervise his chemotherapy infusion center in that an unlicensed staff member was allowed to mix, administer and supervise the administration of chemotherapy drugs. Respondent's conduct constitutes an extreme departure from the standard of care applicable to an oncologist in the State of California.
- 19. Respondent's conduct, as set forth in paragraphs 6 through 18, inclusive above, constitutes gross negligence pursuant to Code section 2234, subdivision (b). As such, cause for discipline exists.

### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

(Aiding and Abetting the Unlicensed Practice of Medicine)

- 20. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under Code sections 2234, subdivisions (a) and (b), and 2264, in that Respondent committed unprofessional conduct when he aided and abetted the unlicensed practice of medicine by failing to adequately supervise his chemotherapy infusion center, such that an unlicensed staff member was allowed to, and did, mix and administer chemotherapy drugs to his patients. The circumstances are as follows:
- 21. Paragraphs 6 through 18 are incorporated by reference and re-alleged as if fully set forth herein.
- 22. Respondent's conduct, as set forth in paragraphs 6 through 18, inclusive above, constitute unprofessional conduct and aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of medicine pursuant to Code sections 2234, subdivisions (a) and (b), and 2264. As such, cause for discipline exists.

### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number G 27314, issued to Edward Robert Alexson, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Edward Robert Alexson, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants, pursuant to section 3527 of the Code;
- 3. Ordering Edward Robert Alexson, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
  - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: March 15, 2016

KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER

Executive Director

Medical Board of California Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant